

# ABSTRACT

A gas discharge panel having (a) a plurality of cells arranged in a matrix, each cell being filled with a discharge gas which is enclosed between a facing pair of substrates, and (b) plural pairs of display electrodes arranged on an inner surface of one of the substrates so as to extend in a row direction of the matrix, image display being generated by a discharge fired between the plural pairs of display electrodes. Each pair of display electrodes comprise (a) two bus lines lying parallel to each other and extending in the row direction of the matrix, (b) one or more inner protrusions arranged within each cell on an inner side of one or both of the bus lines so as to protrude toward an inner side of an opposite bus line, and (c) one or more outer protrusions arranged so as to protrude from an outer side of one or both of the bus lines. A shortest gap between each pair of display electrodes is either the gap between one of the bus lines and the inner protrusions provided on the opposite bus lines or the gap between the inner protrusions provided on both of the bus lines. By concentrating the electric charge within the shortest gap during the discharge period, it is possible to keep the discharge firing voltage below existing levels. Also, the generated discharge gradually expands to the outer protrusions, allowing a sustain discharge (surface discharge) to be secured over a wide area. Thus the

present invention allows for an excellent discharge capacity to be achieved while improving the illuminance efficiency above existing levels. It is also possible, according to the present invention, to arrange the inner protrusions on each of the bus lines so that the ends are out of alignment along the row direction of the matrix.

In summary, the excellent discharge capacity and improved illuminance efficiency achieved by the present invention is due to the favorable way in which the discharge capacity expands along the row and column directions of the matrix (i.e. parallel to the surface of the substrates) for the period that the discharge is being sustained between the plural pairs of display electrodes.